

REED, a Democrat, and Senator INHOFE, a Republican, completed their work on the National Defense Authorization bill last summer.

This year's National Defense Authorization bill was filed on July 18, 4½ months ago. I was hopeful that the Senate would advance this bill in September and work with our colleagues across the Capitol to send it to the President before the end of the year. But that obviously didn't happen—again, not an accident but by design.

Now we are at the end of November and the National Defense Authorization bill hasn't even hit the Senate floor. So not only are we talking about not appropriating the money so that our national security leaders can plan and implement the sort of needed investments that are critical in a great power competition; we don't even have the authorization bill on the floor.

I hope that will change in the next couple of days, but we have already wasted most of the year, and we can't get any of that time back.

So my point is that in order to plan for and prepare for the future—a dangerous future—our military commanders need predictability. They need to be able to plan. That is why Congress has passed a Defense authorization bill for each of the last 61 years. We can't skip this important responsibility or delay it any longer. Congress needs to pass the annual Defense authorization bill without further delay.

Now, Members of both parties, on both sides of the aisle, myself included, have been incredibly frustrated by this process—again, not by accident but by design—and we are eager to take up and pass a strong Defense authorization bill and then to pass the appropriations required for our Department of Defense and our national security leadership to do the job we expect them to do.

But it is not our frustration that is important. It is the jeopardy to our national security that has resulted from this chaotic environment and the slight—I don't know how you can interpret it any other way—to our men and women in uniform that what they do is not our highest priority; it is just not that important. That is not the message we should be sending to them.

There is no question that we have to get this done before the end of the year. We can't wait until next year or any longer. We need to pass a Defense authorization bill now, without further delay.

The bottom line is, we can't match the high stakes global threat landscape with continuing resolutions and past-due authorization bills.

The Defense Department needs to plan every single day to equip and train and, hopefully, deter military conflicts anywhere around the world. Our adversaries are watching us, and when they see us inflicting self-inflicted damage to our credibility and our commitment to national security, they don't fail to notice.

By failing to pass the National Defense Authorization bill and the appropriations bill, we will be stealing time that the Defense Department does not have.

General Douglas MacArthur said the history of failure in war can be summed up in two words: "Too late." "Too late."

For the sake of our country, I hope our Democratic colleagues will quit dragging their feet and allow this Chamber to advance bills to both strengthen our national defense and to fully fund it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled begin immediately.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1133, Camille L. Velez-Rive, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Ben Ray Lujan, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Jacky Rosen, Edward J. Markey, Angus S. King, Jr.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Camille L. Velez-Rive, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 363 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Hassan	Padilla
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rounds
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	King	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Leahy	Sinema
Collins	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Duckworth	Menendez	Tillis
Durbin	Merkley	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warner
Gillibrand	Murphy	Warren
Graham	Murray	Whitehouse
Grassley	Ossoff	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	Young
Daines	Moran	
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Rosen	Sasse	Warnock
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1147, Anne M. Nardacchi, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Ossoff, Mark Kelly, Jacky Rosen, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Anne M. Nardacchi, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.